

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05
NEAE-00 /100 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6363

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID IS JO
SUBJ: VOLAGS AND THE GOI

REFS: (A) STATE 120631, (B) TEL AVIV 5785

1. E/C COUNSELOR HART MET FOR AN HOUR MAY 16 WITH MFA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL DIVON AND OFFICE DIRECTOR GONEN TO
DISCUSS VOLAG PROGRAMS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND
SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF ANERA. DRAWING ON TALKING
POINTS IN REF A, HART EXPLAINED PURPOSES OF VOLAGS,
RULES UNDER WHICH THEY OPERATE AND USG HOPE THAT
THROUGH FRANK EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WE WOULD BE
ABLE TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES WHICH MIGHT ARISE.
DIVON AND GONEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- THE GOI UNDERSTANDS AND HAS NO DESIRE TO INTER-
FERE WITH THE US-PALESTINIAN RELATIONSHIP OF
THE PROGRAMS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN GOI
POLICY IN THIS REGARD, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL NOT
NECESSARILY APPROVE OF EVERY PROJECT.
-- ANERA IS SOMETHING OF A SPECIAL CASE IN THAT ITS
"ANTI-ISRAELI" BIAS CREATES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
SUSPICION AMONG GOI OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
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ADMINISTERING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.
-- THEY SEE THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH ANERA, HOWEVER,
AS ITS METHOD OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. IF ANERA
WOULD INFORMALLY DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROJECTS WITH
THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MSW) BEFORE TALKING
ABOUT THEM IN ANY DETAIL WITH THE PALESTINIANS OR
MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS, MOST PROBLEMS COULD BE

AVOIDED. THE GOI OBJECTS TO HAVING ANERA PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AS A "FAIT ACCCOMPLI." (HART DISPUTED THIS.) THEY ARE NOT SEEKING JOINT PROGRAMMING, BUT WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT EARLY ON. MSW CONCURRENCE WILL ALMOST ALWAYS YIELD APPROVAL FROM THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE OTHER VOLAGS FOLLOW THIS GENERAL PROCEDURE AND HAVE HAD GOOD RESULTS. (THE CASE OF CDF IN GAZA WAS POINTED OUT AND THEY SAID IT WAS AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE DUE TO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.)

2. HART ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET GOI APPROVAL FOR ALL OF ANERA'S 1978 PROGRAMS WHILE THEY AND THE GOI TRIED TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE YEARS. DIVON RESPONDED THAT THREE PROJECTS HAD BEEN APPROVED AND A FOURTH WAS STILL BEING CONSIDERED. THE GOI WANTED ANERA TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE FIVE PROJECTS THE MSW HAD SUGGESTED. THE GOI DOES NOT LIKE AID TO WHAT THEY SEE AS ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES. DIVON AND GONEN ASKED IF ANERA COULDN'T DO MORE WORK IN UNRWA CAMPS. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT PERMITTED AND THAT ANERA'S EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN URBAN AS WELL AS RURAL AREAS WAS MEANT TO COMPLEMENT THE WORK BEING DONE BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

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3. COMMENT. THE CONVERSATION WAS AMIABLE ENOUGH THROUGHT, ALTHOUGH QUITE CANDID. WHILE IT DID NOT SOLVE ANERA'S IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTY, IT WAS WORTHWHILE AS A MEANS OF ALERTING THE GOI TO OFFICIAL U.S. CONCERN OVER THE RECENT TURN OF EVENTS. IT MAY ALSO HAVE GREASED THE WAYS FOR THE OTHER VOLAGS IN VIEW OF THE MFA'S INSISTENCE THAT THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY WITH EVERYBODY EXCEPT ANERA. THE UPCOMING CDF WEST BANK PROPOSAL COULD BE A TEST OF THIS. THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP FOR ANERA SEEMS TO BE TO HAVE ANOTHER DETERMINED NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH AVITSOUR OF THE MSW TO SEE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT. BASED ON THE OUTCOME THERE WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER FURTHER EMBASSY ACTION IS WARRANTED.

4. ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED TO ANERA REP SELZ. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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